

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07723 111909Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4545
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: POL, MILI, NATO, IT, US
SUBJ: US/ITALIAN JOINT STAFF TALKS

REF: A. ROME 2203, B. STATE 32264

1. IN BRIEFING TO NWC, COL. D'AMBROSIO, DEPUTY CHIEF MOD
POL/MIL OFFICER MENTIONED OFF THE RECORD ITALIAN PLANS FOR
SUBJECT TALKS BEGINNING JUNE 12. D'AMBROSIO HAS BEEN RESPON-
SIBLE FOR STAFFING ITALIAN POSITION AND WILL BE KEY MEMBER OF
DELEGATION. D'AMBROSIO SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED AS SOURCE OF FOLLOW-
ING INFORMATION.

2. APPARENTLY ONE IMPORTANT ISSUE ITALIANS PLAN RAISE IS
POTENTIAL ITALIAN ROLE IN EASING GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE.
THOUGHTS ARE ITALIAN MILITARY CAN PLAY SUBSTANTIAL ROLE
BY ENCOURAGING GREEK AND TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES,
NATO HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ALLIED ACTIVITIES. GREEK CHIEF
OF STAFF DAVOS WAS IN ROME LAST WEEK FOR TALKS WITH DEFMIN
LATTANZIO AND GENERAL STAFF. LATTANZIO PLANS TO GO TO ANKARA
FOLLOWING DPC. ACCORDING D'AMBROSIO IT IS PRIMARILY LATTANZIO
WHO IS REPOSNSIBLE FOR ITALIAN INITIATIVE.

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PAGE 02 ROME 07723 111909Z

3. THERE NO QUESTION ITALIAN MILITARY DEEPLY DISTURBED
BY QUOTE DISARRAY UNQUOTE TO WHICH GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE HAS
REDUCED SOUTHERN REGION. THEY APPEAR SERIOUS IN THEIR BELIEF
THEY CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AS WE HAVE REPORTED (ROME 5123)
LATTANZIO SEEMS TO BE ACTIVELY SEEKING A LARGER ITALIAN ROLE
IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF MEDITERRANEAN BASIN. WHILE USEFULNESS
OF ITALIAN ROLE IN THIS LARGER MATTER ONLY CAN BE JUDGED ONCE

THEIR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN LAID OUT WE BELIEVE THIS AREA IN WHICH ITALIANS MIGHT UNDER RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TOLD THE DCM THAT ANDREOTTI WOULD BE STOPPING IN ATHENS ON MAY 23 ON HIS WAY TO BUCHAREST. WHILE NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT ANDREOTTI MAY TOUCH ON THESE MATTERS ESPECIALLY SINCE LATTANZIO IS WELL-KNOWN AS BEING VERY CLOSE TO ANDREOTTI. GARDNER

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